

**CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY OF ECONOMY AND GROWTH:
PROGRAMME FOR GROWTH (INCLUDING LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER AND
COUNTY DEALS)**

Recommendations to Cabinet:

In welcoming the report, Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee recommended:

1. Enhancement and alignment of the publicly available Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) by the service to better support the Surrey County Council's strategic priority outcome of 'Growing a sustainable economy from which everyone can benefit' – some of the KPIs should have a shorter timescale to assess and monitor progress with a definition of what is meant by 'sustainable growth';
2. A timely assessment of the implication for the economic growth and greener futures agendas should Surrey not be chosen for a pilot County Deal;
3. A more explicit focus on how the County's ambitious Economic Growth Strategy is an integral component of its equally ambitious Climate Change ambitions (the economic growth is consistent with climate change, greener futures and net zero ambitions of the Council);
4. Identification, awareness and reporting of who is responsible for delivery and monitoring (Paragraph 29 of the report presented to the Select Committee) the impact of the performance;
5. A further report to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee to include updates on:
 - a. Detailed information following the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper;
 - b. LEP review and future course of action;
 - c. Specific information and clarity about the delivery and monitoring aspects, including publicly available key performance indicators to assess and monitor progress;
 - d. How the Council holds economic ambitions and priority objectives and climate change ambitions and priority objectives in balance, to ensure a sustainable economy for Surrey;
 - e. Feedback and lessons about the highways/regeneration pilots (e.g. Horley, Staines, Farnham etc.);
 - f. 5G roll-out and communication with local stakeholders including Members and small businesses;
 - g. Progress on discussion with Hampshire County Council and on Economic Prosperity Board;
 - h. Any other relevant update relating to County Deal, LEP review, economy and growth, including response to aforementioned points 1-4.

Request for information/action:

- i. Request for the Cabinet to share reports presented to The Growth Board to the Select Committee.
- ii. Officers to share details of the Innovation Loan Fund when they are ready.

John O'Reilly**Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee****Cabinet Response:**

I would like to thank the Chairs and the members of the Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee for their comments and time in considering the Economy and Growth, Programme for Growth. The Council has made significant progress, at pace, on this agenda and is demonstrably, with its partners, having a positive impact, in pursuit of our priority of 'Growing a sustainable economy from which everyone can benefit'.

With regard to the comments concerning the balance between i) economic growth and prosperity and ii) climate change and net zero, officers from the Greener Futures team and the Economy and Growth Team are working to ensure a joint and co-ordinated approach. This ensures close alignment between the two agendas and creates synergies between the two individual work programmes, to secure cross-cutting objectives and maximise the impact we have on both climate change and the economy.

An example of this is the alignment of the work by the Economy and Growth team and Greener Futures team to identify and deliver interventions to support the future skills needs across Surrey, with a specific focus on the green skills needed to deliver on SCC's and Central Government's commitment to zero carbon. It is intended that this will form a central element of the emerging Surrey Skills Plan which is being delivered together with partners through the Surrey Skills Leadership Forum and the One Surrey Growth Board.

Furthermore, the relatively recently established Surrey Forum, as reported to Cabinet on 21st December 2021, has an overarching role to ensure that the priorities and activities of all strategic partnerships – Health and Wellbeing, Greener Future and One Surrey Growth Board are focused, aligned, co-ordinated and held in dynamic equilibrium.

A range of economic Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed and approved by the One Surrey Growth Board, which are used to monitor and report against the delivery of the Programme for Growth ambitions and targets, by both the Board and Cabinet. In view of the strategic, facilitating and influencing nature of the County Council's role, while this includes metrics over the short, medium and longer term, meaningful progress and results are most often made over longer timeframes.

Updates on these as well as wider metrics around next zero and health are made publicly available as part of being presented to Cabinet, as well being published online (e.g. Surrey Index).

A further report will be presented to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee and Cabinet once the Levelling Up and Devolution White Paper has been published.

Tim Oliver
Leader of the Council
22 February 2022

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